

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/773,444

Examiner

Hoan H. Tran

Applicant(s)

YAMADA, MASATOMO

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 July 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>07/07/2004</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification:

- Page 14, line 4, "roller" has been changed to --belt--.
- Page 16, line 26, "provid d" has been changed to --provided--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-17 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-6

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a secondary transferring device provided in proximity to a primary transferring device on downstream side of the primary transferring device along a pivotal rotation direction of an intermediate transfer member, and a position determining device abutting against a plane of the intermediate transfer member where the toner image is not held, for determining a position between the primary transferring device and the secondary transferring device.

Claims 7-11

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a tension roller abutting against a rear surface of an intermediate transfer member;

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wherein said tension roller forms a primary transfer portion, a flat plane portion directed to a secondary transfer portion, and arranged within a projection area which is directed from a secondary transfer member for forming the secondary transfer portion to an image carrier.

Claims 12-17

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising an intermediate transfer belt made of an elastic belt which abuts against an image carrier in a wrap shape at a primary transfer portion, and a position determining member provided inside the intermediate transfer belt and provided between the primary transfer portion and a secondary transfer portion, for determining both a position of the primary transfer portion and a position of the secondary transfer portion.

Prior Art

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Fukao et al. ['900] disclose an image forming apparatus having an intermediate transfer belt.
- Sato ['054] discloses an image forming apparatus.
- Yamada et al. ['178] disclose a method and apparatus for color image forming.

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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoan H. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2141. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Arthur Grimley can be reached at (571) 272-2136. The central office fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

HHT
August 06, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hoan Tran', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**HOAN TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**